Share of Rajasthan in national demonstration phase

†2971. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question 645 in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2007 and state:

(a) the share of Rajasthan in the give lakh hectare under the national demonstration phase;

(b) the guidelines prepared for the implementation of the said programme in Rajasthan; and

(c) the name of the Nodal Department that would implement this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development have a proposal to cover 5 lakh hectares of waste lands under Jatropha/Pongamia plantation in the demonstration phase of National Mission on Bio-diesel. The Ministry of Rural Development after obtaining approval from the EFC for utilization of budgetary provisions made during 2005-06 released Rs. 49 crore in March, 2006 to nine States namely, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Assam and Tripura for the purpose of raising Jatropha nurseries. Out of this, Rs. 2.25 crore was released to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) of 11 districts of Rajasthan namely Udaipur, Sirohi, Chittorgarh, Rajasmand, Dungarpur, Banswara, Kota, Bhilwara, Jhalawar, Bundi and Baran for raising 75 lakh Jatropha seedlings. Further, the Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs. 5.00 crore in March, 2007 to the Rajasthan State Bio-fuel Development Authority, Jaipur, the State level nodal agency for promotion of Jatropha plantation and bio-diesel production, for raising 166.67 lakh jatropha seedlings. An area of 8055 hectare can be planted with 241.67 lakhs seedlings @ of 3000 plants per hectare (2500 plants/ha. and 500 plants/ha. for mortality replacement) sanctioned during 2005-06 and 2006-07. State-wise allocation of area for plantations will be decided by the Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the State Governments. Detailed guidelines for implementation of the demonstration programme would be formulated by the Ministry of Rural Development.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) At the national level, the Ministry of Rural Development is designated as the Nodal Department for implementation of National Mission on Bio-diesel and in Rajasthan, the Rajasthan State Bio-fuel Development Authority, Jaipur is the agency for implementation of this programme.

Bio-mass power generation

2972. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased:

(a) whether Government are of the view that in the light of high energy requirements of the economy, there is a need to develop a sustainable and renewable bio-mass power generation;

(b) if so, how much bio-power do the country produces and the potential thereof;

(c) the challenges, technological and otherwise, which need to be surmounted;

(d) whether any fiscal incentives and policy change, are initiated to promote the bio-mass power generation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A cumulative biomass power generation capacity of 1226 MW has been installed in the country till to end of 10th Five Year Plan. A potential of 21000 MW has been estimated for generation of power from surplus biomass (excluding bio-mass from plantation) and sugarcane bagasse.

(c) Major constraints are inadequate micro-level data on suplus biomass; problems associated with sustainable availability, collection, transportation and storage of biomass; non-versatility of boilers to take mixed biomass feed stock; non-fixation of attractive and preferential tariff for buy-back, wheeling and banking of electricity from biomass projects in some potential States.